

KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a silent killer lurking among us and our children. That killer comes in the form of food-borne illnesses and affects 76 million people each year. Of those individuals, approximately 325,000 will be hospitalized and more than 5,000 will die. While many adults will be fortunate to avoid the devastating, lasting effects of food-borne illness, our children are especially vulnerable and comprise nearly 40 percent of the victims.

Each day, more than 27 million children eat lunches provided through the National School Lunch Act. Despite increased attention in recent years to the safety of those meals provided to our school children, there is evidence of serious problems with our school lunch system. Between 1990 and 2000, there were nearly 100 reported outbreaks of food-borne illness in schools affecting thousands of children, many of them resulting in significant health consequences.

I attended a hearing last year examining food safety standards in our schools and found significant gaps in how we protect our children from these dangerous illnesses. Only 17 percent of the food served in our schools is subject to stringent United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) safety guidelines for dangerous pathogens. Safety histories of the companies that supply food to our schools are not being shared with the school officials who purchase the food. If the USDA or FDA quickly announce that a manufacturer has produced tainted food, states often have no way to determine if they have that food in their schools' kitchens due to a complex web of food manufacturers, distributors and brokers. The federal government has no authority to mandate the recall of contaminated foods sold to schools.

Today, along with Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO, I am introducing a bill that will address these concerns. The Safe School Food Act incorporates USDA safety guidelines into school procurement contracts to the maximum extent possible, giving the Secretary of Agriculture authority to require pathogen testing of foods purchased by schools, providing state education agencies with current vendor information, developing effective methods to share supplier safety information with schools, allowing for mandatory recall of any tainted food, and providing districts with tools and information on how to more safely prepare food served to our children.

Our food supply has been identified as a possible target of terrorists and we need to protect it and protect our children. This is a very serious issue and we must do all we can to ensure the safety of our children.

I urge my colleagues to support the Safe School Food Act and support the well-being of our children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, March 20, 2003, I missed rollcall votes 78–83. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll no. 78, on agreeing to the Hill amendment to H. Con. Res. 95, "no"; roll no. 79, on agreeing to the Toomey amendment to H. Con. Res. 95, "aye"; roll no. 80, on agreeing to the Cummings amendment to H. Con. Res. 95, "no"; roll no. 81, on agreeing to the Spratt amendment to H. Con. Res. 95, "no"; roll no. 82, on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 95, "aye"; roll no. 83, on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 104, "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 92 through 94 on Monday, March 31. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 92 and "yea" on rollcall votes 93 and 94.

CONGRATULATING DANNY WALLACE, FORMER TENNESSEE STATE SENATOR

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, sometimes we lose sight of what is really important in life. That is why I want to congratulate a former Tennessee State Senator, Danny Wallace, for the balance he is achieving in his life.

He has successfully operated the Halls Cinema in Knox County for the past 20 years. Small businesses are the backbone of our entire economy, and yet a very high percentage fail within the first five years.

Mr. Wallace has succeeded in an industry where it is very difficult for an independent operator to survive.

More importantly, he is putting his family first, foregoing opportunities in politics to spend more time with those who are most important to him.

I want to congratulate Danny Wallace on the 20th anniversary of the Halls Cinema and urge all my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to read the fine article about him, his family, and business that was published in the Halls Shopper newspaper.

[FROM THE HALLS SHOPPER NEWS, MAR. 31, 2003]

20 YEARS FOR HALLS CINEMA SEVEN

(By Sandra Clark)

Sometimes life gets in the way of politics. Danny Wallace, a state senator at age 33, was a fund-raiser for Phil Bredesen in last year's election. You might have expected him to land a job in Nashville—perhaps even

become a commissioner like his dad, J.D., in the Blanton Administration. But Danny works the ticket booth at Halls Cinema Seven and goes to ballgames with his 12-year-old son, J.D. III.

"I'm having a ball," he said.

Wallace is doing what hundreds of moms and dads do every day in Halls and surrounding areas. He's watching his kid grow up and trying to earn a living.

The Halls Cinema Seven is celebrating its 20th anniversary this month. Danny wanted a commercial—tell 'em we'll have \$4 tickets (\$2 for kids) through April and half-price concessions. (Offer good Sunday through Thursday and not good on certain movies.)

The theater opened in April 1983. Danny has been the manager since "day one."

He laughs: "I had just graduated from college (UT with a degree in business) and was planning to go to law school. But Dad and a buddy had opened a four-plex in Halls and they asked me to run it."

Twenty years ago the Knoxville market was dominated by local theaters. The Wallaces put a four-plex in Johnson City and built the first theater in Sevierville. They continue to operate a four-plex in Rogersville.

Danny said it's harder now to make money than when Halls Cinema opened. Last weekend we were competing with "two wars and 64 basketball games."

"There's not many guys like me any more," he said. Ironically, Halls Cinema operates just blocks from the headquarters of Regal Entertainment—the largest theater chain in the world.

Danny said he'll match his seats and sound with anybody. "We invest our money back and we give people a good experience."

Danny's wife, Lisa, is a theater at Union County High School. J.D. III often helps his dad clean up the theater, making him a third-generation movie-man.

Some politicians run on "family values." Danny Wallace just lives them.

SMALLPOX EMERGENCY PERSONNEL ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I must rise in opposition to H.R. 1463, the Smallpox Emergency Personnel Protection Act, because the House Republican Leadership has chosen to schedule this bill through Suspension of the Rules, a process normally used for non-controversial legislation. In addition, they further violated the legislative process by not allowing this bill to go through the normal committee process.

By doing so, the leadership has ignored the legitimate and important issues raised by a considerable number of members of Congress and unions representing "First Responders," the very group of people this legislation seeks to protect. Because of the lack of input from all parties involved, this legislation will fail to accomplish its central goal, the inoculation of "First Responders."

If the Leadership had allowed fair and open debate on this legislation through the normal legislative process, I would seriously consider supporting this legislation rather than opposing it. Because we have prohibited amendments and debate on some important issues, I must vote against this legislation.